



**TOWN OF ELLINGTON
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, May 20, 2008

Members Present: Daniel Parisi (Chairman), Edward Duell, Tim Kiessling (arr. 7:30), Shawn Koehler, Joe Stimac

Others Present: Town Engineer Jim Thompson, WPCA Administrator Peter Williams

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Daniel Parisi called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

II. CITIZENS FORUM/PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

III. OLD BUSINESS

1. Non-Sewered Water Usage – Deduct Meters

Peter Williams told residents that had contacted him about the sprinkler costs that tonight's meeting is the one they should attend to find out what their cost to hook up to the deduct meters will be. No one has chosen to attend. Since the last meeting the Town Engineer came up with a concept to solve the problem. The Connecticut Water Co. will charge the town a \$10,000 fee to implement the system. It was determined that if the Town charges \$40 each and 50 people hook up, that in 5 years the Town would get back this fee. Peter Williams is still waiting for a response from CT Water to verify the original costs. No action taken, waiting for Connecticut Water.

2. Airport Benefit Assessment

It was decided to wait until Tim Kiessling arrived to discuss the Airport Benefit Assessment.

MOTION (DUELL) SECONDED (STIMAC) AND PASSED TO GO OUT OF AGENDA ORDER.

3. Stafford Plant Project

Mr. Williams stated that he met with Mr. Waugh of Stafford Springs. The Town of Stafford had originally determined that Ellington's share of the upgrade will be \$701,000 or more.

Mr. Williams decided to investigate the facilities plan and went through the two inter-town agreements and determined that Ellington should only owe \$14,879. He revised the estimate and mailed a letter outlining his estimate to the Town of Stafford. The Town of Ellington pays on peak flows. Mr. Thompson stated that Ellington now has the ability to monitor the peak flows through a new meter installed at Crystal Lake Pump Station. He is sure the peak flow rates will be lower when compared to the average flow rates. Due to the fact that most of the houses have grinder pumps, there is not a lot of infiltration into the system and therefore it is a more steady flow rather than peak flow. Ellington's agreement is for peak flow and we should not owe for peak flows because we don't have peak flows. The Town of Ellington does not have any commercial flow into the plant. The Town of Stafford will probably come back with a counter offer. The Town Engineer thinks Ellington has a good case.

4. Facilities Plan Update

The Town Engineer stated that he has been working on the numbers and the numbers in the 1998 plan for the same number of accounts now have 200 more bedrooms according to the Assessor's records. He and Peter Williams are going to have to do some analysis and some spot checks to figure out where the discrepancy lies. Since 1998 there were 3,512 bedrooms connected per the sewer bills, now 10 years later there are 5,957 bedrooms connected or in the service area. That lowers the per bedroom flow from 62.5 to 54.9. The Vernon pump station is pumping 600 gal/minute.

The Planning & Zoning Commission has asked the WPCA to attend their June meeting to review the flow policy. Peter Williams has formulated a draft policy. He will attend the meeting to explain how the flows are determined. Flow for each property is planned based on Plan of Development. If a special project comes up, the commission will review each on its individual basis. He will finalize the policy when the updated flows are determined. Town Engineer Jim Thompson stated that under the old plan dry weather flows are recorded rather than actual flows over a whole year. The new plan has to be done very carefully. There are two towns almost maxed out in flows to Vernon and Mr. Williams anticipates that if Vernon was to extend flow to anyone, it would be probably be them first.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. Vernon Plant Project

The WPCA administrator passed out a spread sheet showing what he determined Ellington owes Vernon for the nitrogen upgrade based on analysis of the agreement. Ellington's share of cost is 14.3% and he has determined it to be approximately \$130,173. He has asked the Town of Vernon for meeting minutes and copy of their audit. The

The Town Engineer stressed that since Ellington's share is 14%; someone should be attending the Vernon WPCA meetings. Peter Williams will try to attend.

Airport Benefit Assessments

Mr. Kiessling and Mr. Stimac listened to the tapes so per the Town Attorney, they may vote tonight. The Town Engineer delivered the assessment report this afternoon. After last month's assessment hearings, it was decided to look at the wetland properties to see the affect they would have on the benefit. Only two properties have a large amount of wetlands and some have streams going through them. The areas designed as wetlands are based on DEP Wetlands Maps. The criteria to determine the assessment is distance to the pipe.

The WPCA Administrator developed three options to determine the assessment amounts. Option A is the rates used at the hearing, option B adds in wetlands areas determined before the report from the Town Engineer with rates from option A, and option C is added dollars to each zone. The Assessment Report from Jim Thompson shown that not so much of the area was wetlands. Peter Williams plugged in Option B into the Town Engineer's report and came out within \$25,000 of what was spent on the project which was \$2,128,000. There will also be flow assessments that will be collected throughout. However, the individual property assessments are not the same as at the public hearing. The Town Attorney agrees that after the WPCA votes on an option, a new hearing should be held. J. Thompson stated the benefit of this sewer in the industrial area benefits the entire town and the cost should have been spread over all taxpayers not just the property owners. Mr. Williams stated that it is too late for that now and \$10,000/acre is a good deal.

P. Williams is recommending Option B because it is fair and pays the cost of the line installation. It was decided that Option B would be used striking the June 1, 2008 payment date. The deferred payment for farm land was discussed. The town is presently paying the interest on deferrals now through the budgets and will continue on the farmland. P Williams is recommending that the deferrals should be assessed 2% interest.

MOTION (DUELL) SECONDED (STIMAC) AND PASSED TO SELECT THE AIRPORT BENEFIT ASSESSMENT CRITERIA OPTION B DATED 4/16/08 WITH THE STRIKING OF THE DUE DATE. KOEHLER ABSTAINED.

It was decided to defer setting the amounts of the assessments until after another public hearing.

MOTION (KIESSLING) SECONDED (DUELL) AND PASSED TO SET A PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE AFFECTED PROPERTIES FOR ASSESSMENTS BASED ON OPTION B FOR AIRPORT SEWER PROJECT.

The hearing may have to be August as June is too close and there is no meeting in July

V. ADMINISTRATIVE

1. Budget Report

P. Williams passed out 2008-09 budgets and spread sheet including debt reduction and the Enterprise Funds. The Hockanum System has \$365,000 projected excess collected and Crystal Lake system is being projected at \$140,000. There is almost enough money in the Enterprise Funds to pay off the debt. However, the Town Engineer pointed out that the Enterprise Funds should be used for upgrades and repairs to the system. All agreed.

MOTION (KIESSLING) SECONDED (STIMAC) AND PASSED TO APPROVE 2008/09 BUDGET AS PRESENTED.

Account Consolidation

The Finance Officer has asked for a motion to consolidate the Proprietary Fund-Hockanum into the Proprietary Fund-Sewer Authority to clean up booking keeping procedures.

MOTION (DUELL) SECONDED (STIMAC) AND PASSED TO AUTHORIZE THE FINANCE OFFICER/TREASURER TO CONSOLIDATE THE PROPRIETARY FUND-HOCKANUM RIVER INTO THE PROPRIETARY FUND-SEWER AUTHORITY EFFECTIVE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007-08.

2. Design, Construction and Maintenance Reports

Activity for sewers permits has slowed up and the whole year will probably be 50-60.

Reduction of Bond – 117 Stafford Rd.

The Town Engineer's letter recommends approval of a reduction as long as the as-built mylars are received and approved, the sewer easement executed, and the certified cost of construction submitted and approved.

MOTION (DUELL) SECONDED (KIESSLING) AND PASSED TO APPROVE REDUCTION OF BOND FOR 117 STAFFORD RD WITH CONDITIONS SET FORTH IN

Maintenance Bond Phase III Deer Valley

MOTION (DUELL) SECONDED (STIMAC) AND PASSED TO RETURN THE MAINTENANCE BOND ON PHASE III DEER VALLEY AS RECOMMENDED BY THE TOWN ENGINEER'S LETTER DATED MAY 20, 2008.

3. Approval of Minutes April 15, 2008

MOTION (DUELL) PASSED (KIESSLING) AND PASSED (KOEHLER ABSTAINED) TO APPROVE THE WPCA MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 15, 2008.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION (DUELL) SECONDED (STIMAC) AND PASSED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:45 PM.

Submitted by 
Lori Smith, Clerk